12.00 Noon

श्री सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा: पिछले सालों में हिंदुस्तान की फार्मुसिटिकल इंडस्ट्री ने आर॰एंड डी॰ सेक्टर में काफी तरक्की की है। उस में कई ऐसी कंपनीज हैं जिन्होंने नई दवा बनायी है और जो इंटरनेशनली कांपिटेटिव भी हैं, जैसे के सिपला है, हेट्रो है। उन के लिए सरकार की तीन मिनिस्ट्रीज में काम चल रहा है जिस में साइंस एंड टैक्नॉलोजी भी है। महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो रिपोर्ट की बात की है, उस के लिए श्री जोशी की चैयरमैनशिप में एक टास्क-फोर्स बनी है जिस की रिपोर्ट तैयार होने जा रही है। उस के संबंध में मीटिंग हो गयी है, अब उसी में जो विचार आएगा उसे रिपोर्ट में देंगे।

श्री सभापति: प्रश्न संख्या-451. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I have to put one supplementary on this question. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I may be allowed to put a question.

श्री सभापति: मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि एक इम्पोर्टेण्ट क्वैश्चन आ जाए। आप पूछना चाहें तो कोई आपत्ति नहीं होगी। नेक्स्ट क्वैश्चन।

NAIs benefits to A.P.

*451. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers in Andhra Pradesh, benefited from the above scheme, during the last two years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been introduced in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) A Statement-II indicating district-wise number of farmers benefited in Andhra Pradesh under NAIS during 2000-01 and 2001-02 is annexed.

Statement-I

Salient Features of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

- Scheme is available to all farmers—loanee and non-loanee both-irrespective of their size of holding.
- Compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- The scheme is voluntary for the States/UTs.
- Sum-insured may extend to the value of threshold yield of the area insured.
- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, eleven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion, turmeric, jute, tapioca, annual banana and pineapple are presently covered.
- Basically all-risk insurance scheme covering all yield losses due to natural, non-preventable risks.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance *i.e.* Gram Panchayat within three years.
- It is proposed to set up a separate agency for implementation of NAIS.

Statement-II

District-wise farmers benefited in Andhra Pradesh during last two years under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme(NAIS).

Sl. No.	District	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Adilabad	20,061	352
2.	Anantapur	1,407	106,991
3.	Chittor	990	18,004
4.	Cuddapah	3,871	42,874
5.	East Godavari	7,343	14,078
6.	Guntur	2,977	-
7.	Karimnagar	-	2,057
8.	Khammam	1,109	3,068
9.	Krishna	3,036	11,918
10.	Kurnool	2,872	1,266
11.	Mahbubnagar	3,330	7,512
12.	Medak	5,634	1,034
13.	Nalgonda	12,897	4,961
14.	Nellore	11,091	4,817
15.	Nizamabad	2,374	23,460
16.	Prakasam	5,342	7
17.	Rangareddy	336	1,663
18.	Srikakulam	28,823	13,693
19.	Vishakapatnam	2,066	912
20.	Vizianagram	23,853	9,441
21.	Warangal	439	4,340
22.	West Godavari	11,672	29,719
	Total	151,253	302,167

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, small and marginal farmers are being given a subsidy of 50 per cent with regard to premium for the payment of crop insurance. In view of the acute drought conditions that are prevailing, I would like to know whether the Government can relax these conditions and make all the drought-affected areas eligible to get subsidy. That is my first question.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has made a suggestion about the drought relief. We are looking at drought relief measures. We will look into that question also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Rail network in NER

*452. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand rail network in different parts of NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A number of new line and gauge conversion projects are in progress in the North Eastern Region. The details of these projects along with the status and targets wherever fixed are given in the Statement. (*See* below). As per the extant policy, funds to the tune of 10% of budgetary support are to be provided for North Eastern Region. Efforts are being made to get additional resources from Non-Lapsable Pool and mobilization of non-budgetary resources.